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Many new cases are added, decided since the appearance of the first edition, some of them of large importance as enunciating hitherto unsuspected doctrines of admiralty law, such as *Southern Pacific Co. v. Jensen*,<sup>2</sup> *Chelentis v. Luckenbach S. S. Co.*,<sup>3</sup> *Union Fish Co. v. Erickson*,<sup>4</sup> and (briefly mentioned in a footnote, p. 209) the recent important case of *Knickerbocker Ice Co. v. Stewart*.<sup>5</sup>

The Appendix contains in addition to what appeared in the first edition, the text of the Salvage Act of 1912, the Stand-By Act of 1890, the Handwriting Act of 1913, and the Act of March 9, 1920, authorizing certain admiralty suits against the United States.

F. B. S.

AN ELEMENTARY COMMENTARY ON ENGLISH LAW. (Designed for use in schools.) By His Honour Judge Ruegg, K. C., (County Court Judge of North Staffordshire and Joint-Judge of Birmingham). London: George Allen and Unwin, Ltd. 1920. pp. 194.

It is a happy event when the broad principles of an intricate and highly specialized subject are set down in plain language and straightforward style by one who, through attaining eminence in his profession, is competent to perform this task. In the sphere of law it may well be considered a public service to place a simple outline of its rules in the hands of the general reader or of children in schools, for whom primarily this book was written. The experiment of teaching law to children is one that is largely untried, but there is no reason why it should fail. It is not claimed that children could be made into lawyers, but neither is it to-day suggested that by studying physics or hygiene does a child become an engineer or competent to practice medicine. A knowledge of the legal system of one's country is necessary to every well-informed person.

The book will be found of service in giving a general idea of what law is, and might well be perused by those proposing to begin legal study; they may be helped in deciding whether they have aptitude which justifies their proceeding. The book deals at first with the nature of English Law and the Courts, their personnel and practice; the other contents include most of the larger divisions of law — Real and Personal Property, Wills and Intestacy, Contracts, Negotiable Instruments, Marriage and the Law of Persons, the Law of Master and Servant, Torts, Crime, and elementary Procedure and Evidence.

The first part of the book describing the component parts of English Law and the Courts is admirably clear and concise. The same is true of the chapters on real property, though the author's misgivings as to whether the topics discussed — such as Lease and Release before and after the Statute of Uses — may not be above the understanding of the normal school child, must be shared. Chapter VII dealing with former and present methods of land conveyance could be abbreviated into a simple statement that, since 1845, freehold land is conveyed by deed. More space might instead have been given to the treatment of contracts. Of the branches of law that are scarcely mentioned, Trusts and Bankruptcy would seem to merit brief treatment. A simple explanation of the way in which legal proceedings are begun would have been a valuable addition to the book. The place of case law in a modern system is not made clear; as it is, the impression is given that the law is a series of definite all-embracing rules.

The book is of necessity full of misleading generalizations. However, for the purpose for which it was written it is sufficiently accurate and has the merits of brevity and lucidity; as a new venture it deserves only commendation.

<sup>2</sup> 244 U. S. 205; 37 Sup. Ct. 524; 61 L. Ed. 1086; L. R. A. 1918 C, 451.

<sup>3</sup> 247 U. S. 572; 38 Sup. Ct. 501; 62 L. Ed. 1171.

<sup>4</sup> 248 U. S. 308; 39 Sup. Ct. 112; 63 L. Ed. 261.

<sup>5</sup> 252 U. S. —; 40 Sup. Ct. 438; 64 L. Ed. —.